

TOWN OF IPSWICH UTILITIES DEPARTMENT



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TO: WATER COMMISSIONERS
FROM: VICKI HALMEN
SUBJECT: DROUGHT STATUS UPDATE – NORMAL TO MILD
DATE: MAY 16, 2022
CC: TONY MARINO, WATER SUBCOMMITTEE

Due to early signs of drought conditions, including lack of precipitation and reduced stream flow in the Ipswich River, the Water Department is moving the Drought Status from Normal to Mild. The associated action level imposes **voluntary** water restrictions. These restrictions are being imposed in accordance with the Town of Ipswich Drought Management Plan and are effective immediately.

During declared Water Restrictions, the following practices shall be **permitted**:

- (a) irrigation of public parks and recreation fields between the hours of 7:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m.;
- (b) irrigation of lawns, gardens, flowers and ornamental plants by means of hand-held hose between the hours of 7:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m.

During declared Water Restrictions the following practices shall be **prohibited**:

- (a) irrigation of lawns via any system other than hand held hose or bucket;
- (b) washing of vehicles, except to meet core function of a business;
- (c) washing of exterior building surfaces, parking lots, driveways or sidewalks, except as necessary to apply paint, preservatives, stucco, pavement or cement; and
- (d) filling or refilling of swimming pools.

Please be aware that two of our groundwater wells have manganese or PFAS levels that are being closely monitored. Should those levels rise to where the sources need to be restricted, the Water Department's ability to meet demand will be further impaired.

Customer cooperation by maintaining winter water use levels throughout the summer is critical to ensure an adequate water supply for the community. If these voluntary restrictions are not effective and rainfall is insufficient, mandatory water restrictions will be imposed.